MANAGEMENT PLAN

November, 1996

for McConnell Lake Provincial Park

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
BC Parks Department

McConnell Lake
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
BC Parks Kamloops Area Pilot Project Team
for Thompson River District
Kamloops, B.C.

105-04171/

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

BC Parks
Kamloops, BC

APPROVALS

Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project
Binder Approvals Page

Forward

This binder contains 18 management plans developed under the Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project. This project began in 1994 to develop, implement and evaluate a systems approach to management planning. The project concluded in October, 1996. The management plans contained in this binder provide long-term direction for a group of 16 Class A parks, five ecological reserves and one recreation area. The intention is to review this binder and the plans contained here at regular intervals. Plan vision statements and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- ☐ Coldwater River Park
- ☐ Goldpan Park
- ☐ Juniper Beach Park
- ☐ Lac Le Jeune Park
- ☐ Marble Canyon Park
- ☑ McConnell Lake Park
- ☐ McQueen Creek Eco. Res.
- ☐ Monck Park
- ☐ Paul Lake Park
- ☐ Skihist Eco. Res.
- ☐ Skihist Park
- ☐ Skwaha Lake Eco. Res.
- ☐ Soap Lake Eco. Res.
- ☐ Steelhead Park
- ☐ Tranquille Eco. Res.
- ☐ Wallopers Lake

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Department

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Department

McConnell Lake Park

Management Plan

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Background 1
- Location 1
- Protected Area Values 1
- Private Sector Interests 3
- First Nations Interests 3
- Existing Land Uses and Encumbrances 3

Role of the Park 3
- Conservation 4
- Recreation 4

Vision Statement 4

Zoning 4

Management Concerns and Objectives
- Conservation 6
- Recreation 6

Appendix A - Service Levels

Appendix B - Five Year Business Plan

Figures
- Park Location 2
- Park Zoning 5

McCONNELL LAKE PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This management plan defines the role of McConnell Lake Park within the provincial park system and the objectives and guidelines for managing the resources and visitor use activities in the park.

The park role, objectives and zoning as stated in this plan cannot be contravened in meaning or intent without consultation with the public and approval of the District Manager. A five year business plan is included as appendix B to provide direction for management and development of the park. The business plan is subject to annual review and adjustments.

BACKGROUND

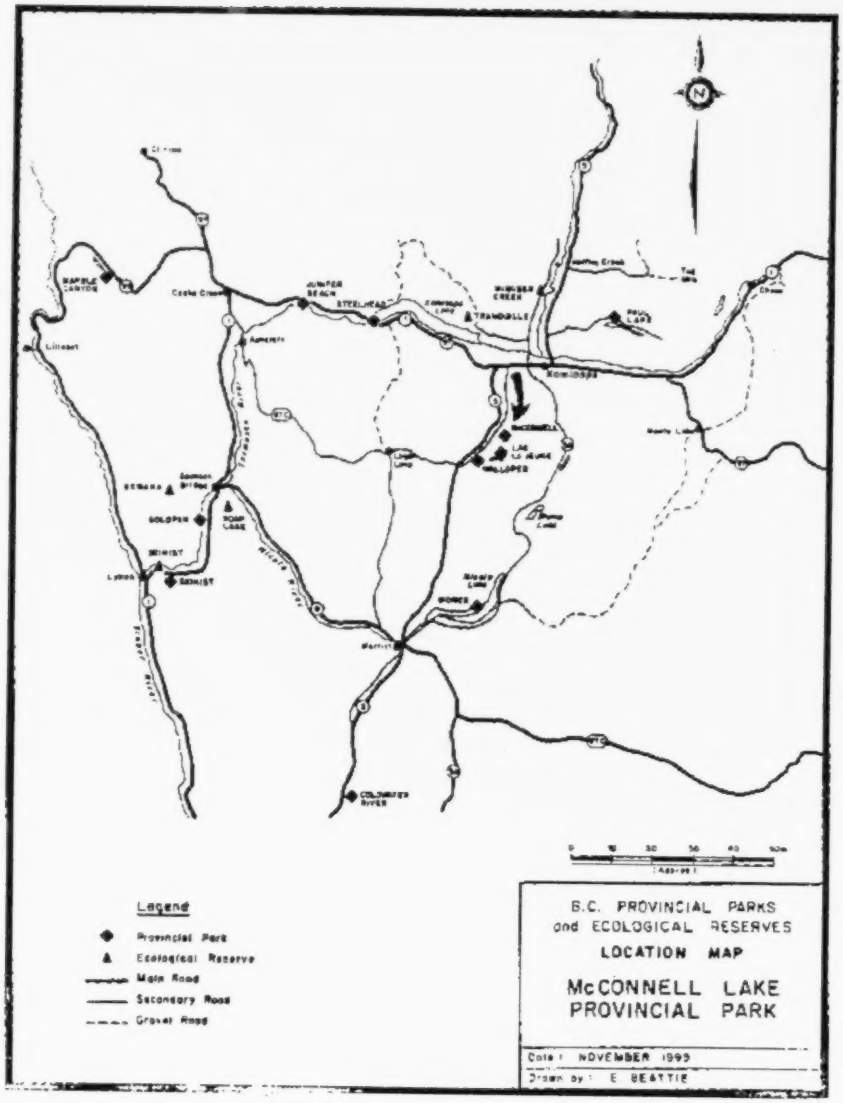
McConnell Lake Park has been moved from Provincial Recreation Area designation to Provincial Park A status through recommendation of the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process.

Protected Area Values

Conservation:

- Represents a typical plateau lake setting surrounded by hilly forested uplands in the Southern Thompson Uplands Ecosection; forest structure is generally characteristic of the montane spruce forest type and includes old growth specimens of Douglas fir.

- The lake shoreline and shoals are important habitat for insects, plants and fish.


Legend
Provincial Park
Ecological Reserve
Main Road
Secondary Road
Gravel Road
B.C. PROVINCIAL PARKS
and ECOLOGICAL RESERVES
LOCATION MAP
McCONNELL LAKE
PROVINCIAL PARK
Date: NOVEMBER 1995
Drawn by: E. BEATTIE

2

Recreation:

- Attractive clear water lake setting with scenic backdrop of forested slopes and McConnell Hill
- Regionally significant rainbow trout fishery, productive fishery with rainbow trout to 1.5+ kg

Culture:

- No known archaeological sites or resources in the park.

Private Sector Interests:

Kamloops and District Fish & Wildlife Association maintains two cabins under Park Use Permit on the east side of McConnell Lake for its members and public users; rough road access is provided to the cabins for provisioning and servicing.

Park Use Permit to graze cattle in the park.

First Nations Interests:

unknown

Existing Land Uses and Encumbrances:

Water Licence 67083 which authorizes diversion of water from Anderson Creek and McConnell Lake.

ROLE OF THE PARK

McConnell Lake Park forms part of a system of parks (Lac le Jeune, Walloper Lake), Recreation Areas (Stake Lake) and Ministry of Forests Recreation sites (Stake Lake and Chuwels Mountain trails and Lodgepole, Face, Paska, Ridge and Fred Lakes) which all contribute to the recreation opportunities in the general Lac Le Jeune area. Within this system there is a range of opportunities and experiences offered from the high provincial use profile and development standards at Lac Le Jeune Park to the rustic, low key forest recreation sites. McConnell Lake fits a regional focus providing levels of services and opportunities between the extremes of Lac Le Jeune Park and the forest recreation sites. In this context the McConnell Lake Park fulfils the following roles:

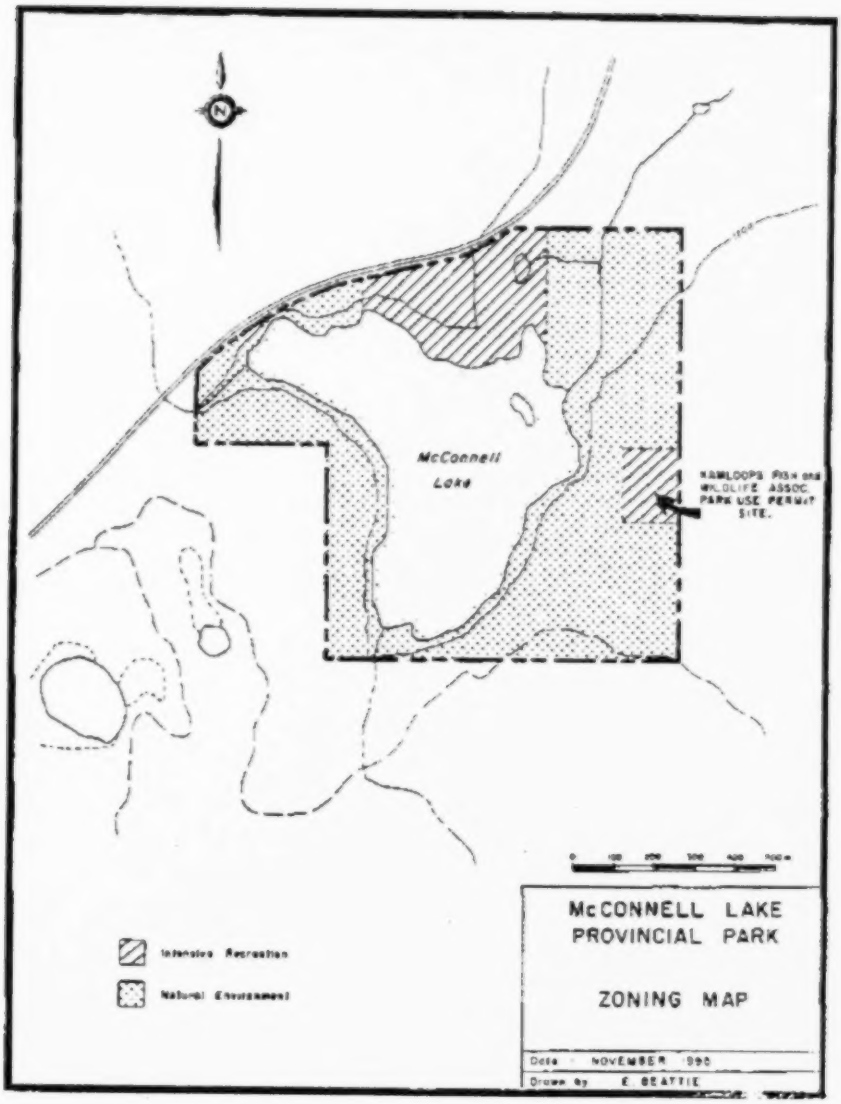
For Conservation

- To protect riparian and shoal areas as critical rainbow trout rearing and feeding habitats.

- To protect a representative example of a plateau lake setting in the Southern Thompson Uplands Ecosection.

For Recreation

- To provide opportunities for destination and regional day use. Recreation activities will include camping, fishing, hiking and canoeing.


McConnell
Lake
KAMLOOPS FISH and WILDLIFE ASSOC. PARK USE PERMIT SITE.
Intensive Recreation
Natural Environment
McCONNELL LAKE
PROVINCIAL PARK
ZONING MAP
Date NOVEMBER 1990
Drawn by E. BEATTIE

VISION STATEMENT

The vision statement looks forward through the next 15 years or so to how the Recreation Area will evolve and be used within the Provincial Park system.

The Park will continue to serve as a low profile campground and day use site. As funds become available campground facilities will be better formalized and improved to prevent reduce environmental impacts. Use levels and demands will increase over time and the park will likely be used to capacity as the regional population base expands into the next century.

ZONING

The Park is separated into two zones:

Intensive Recreation

This zone sets limits for facility development and includes the existing access roads, day use parking and campground and the Kamloops and District Fish and Wildlife Association Cabin site. This zone also allows for future campground expansion.

Natural Environment

This zone takes in the remaining areas surrounding the lake. The intent of this zone is to protect and maintain the natural values. Trails and interpretive signing will be allowed.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS AND OBJECTIVES

Conservation

To coordinate with the Fish and Wildlife Branch in fisheries management.

To maintain natural, undeveloped conditions natural environment zone and to protect adjoining riparian and shoal habitats.

To actively discourage the occurrence of non native plants and animals. Native insect and disease species will be accepted as a normal course of nature, unless there is potential impact to surrounding commercial forest land base. Fire outbreaks will be suppressed.

To maintain a biophysical inventory and ongoing long term monitoring of conditions and changes to habitats and composition, distribution and densities of plant and animal species.

To maintain a biophysical inventory and ongoing long term monitoring of conditions and changes to habitats and composition, distribution and densities of plant and animal species.

Recreation

To maintain a quality fishing experience, with trout ranging to 1.5 kg size.

To improve facilities and services, as funding allows, for:

- cartop boat dropoff
- small day use parking (5 vehicles)
- basic campground amenities for a maximum of 20 sites at level 4 service standards (see appendix A)
- hiking trails around the lake and connecting to the Stake Lake trails and the trail to McConnell Hill (no motorized use of the trails within the park will be permitted).
- interpretation signing and information brochures relating to the McConnell Lake environment and other nearby parks and recreation opportunities

To allow the Kamloops and District Fish and Wildlife to continue with maintenance and operation of the cabin facilities on the east side of the lake

To maintain a regional profile for signing and information for the park. Tourism traffic from the Coquihalla Highway will be directed to Lac Le Jeune Park.

Appendix A - Service Level Explanation

BC Parks service levels provide a method of defining the facilities, information and services which the public can expect within the BC Provincial Parks system. The service levels do not include any measure of the capacity or use of the area, operating standards, or resource management issues. Instead, they are strictly a list of the key facilities and services that may be provided within a particular campground or day-use area. They also provide an opportunity to explore and understand the relationship between the facilities and services BC Parks offers and the expectations of the users or potential users. This will help in making decisions based on the type and grade of facilities and services that BC Parks plans to provide and their associated costs.

Table 1. Campground Service Levels Attributes

Attribute	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Facilities				
• Roads	paved	paved	usually gravel	gravel , dirt or none
• Toilets	flush	usually flush	pit	pit on none
• Water system	pressure	pressure	pressure or handpump	not usually supplied
• Campsites	standard design	standard design	standard design	informal (non - standard)
• Tables	Type I	Type I	Type I or II	Type II
• Sani-station	available	available	not usually available	not available
• Showers	available	not available	notavailable	not available
Information				
• Park entrance sign	portal or plaque	plaque	plaque or Type A	Type A
• Campground entrance sign	Type A	Type A	Type A	Type A or none
• Visitor centre	usually available	not available	notavailable	not available
• Information structures	information shelter	information shelter	single signs	single sign or no information
Services				
• Public telephone	usually available	usually available	not usually available	not available
• Garbage collection	minimum daily	minimum daily	minimum weekly	not usually available
• Security	up to 24 hour	routine patrols	occasional patrols	no patrols
• Visitor programs	available	possibly available	not usually available	not available

Table 2. Day-use Areas Service Level Attributes

Attribute	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Facilities				
▪ Roads	paved	paved	usually gravel	gravel , dirt or none
▪ Toilets	flush	usually flush	pit	pit on none
▪ Water system	pressure	pressure	handpump	not usually supplied
▪ Tables	Type I	Type I	Type II	Type II or none
▪ Change House	available (if suitable for swimming)	available (if suitable for swimming)	not usually available	not available
Information				
▪ Park entrance sign	portal or plaque	plaque	plaque or Type A	Type A
▪ Day-use Areas entrance sign	Type A	Type A	Type A	Type A or none
▪ Visitor centre	usually available	not available	not available	not available
▪ Information Structures	information shelter	information shelter	single signs	single sign or no information
Services				
▪ Public Telephone	usually available	usually available	not usually available	not available
▪ Garbage Collection	minimum daily	minimum daily	minimum weekly	not usually available

APPENDIX B FIVE YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

McConnell Lake

Goal:	Provide stronger protection under the Park Act.
Action:	Upgrade to Class "A" Park status.
Goal:	To identify, maintain and protect the parks natural and cultural values.
Action:	Develop a resource management plan.
Goal:	Provide camping opportunities
Action:	Develop campground based on prepared site plan and approved funding.
Goal:	Maintain a fishery.
Action:	Manage cooperatively with Fisheries Branch.